(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An ESI Hospital (50 bedded) at Hosur is under construction. Opening of new hospitals at Metturdam (50 beds), Trichirapally (50 beds), Tuticorin (50 beds), and Ranipet (50 beds) have been agreed to in principle.

Right to hire and Fire Employees

4351. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a good number of employees including prospective entrepreneurs have demanded right to hire and fire employees in their industrial establishments in view of liberalised policy adopted by Government ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to accept the demand of the employees ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) Employees have not demanded the right to hire and fire employees in their industrial establishments. However, several employers have pointed out that some of the provisions in the existing industrial labour laws constitute restrictions on the discretion of employers to effect manpower adjustments where they are demanded by considerations of economic viability. This matter, along-with other labour related issues, was considered by a bipartite committee under the chairmanship of Shri G. Ramanujam, constituted to formulate specific proposals for the new Industrial Relations law. Based on the recommendations of the Ramanujam Committee and deliberations held thereon in various forums and after considering the Report of the Inter Ministerial Group on Industrial Restructuring, specific proposals are being formulated to create an environment conducive to industrial harmony and economic-growth.

बिहार में कृषि कर्मकारों को न्यूनतम वेतन तथा अन्य सुविधाओं से वंचित रखा जाना

4352. **श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया** : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि बिहार के ग्रामीण इलाकों में कृषि कर्मकारों को न्यूनतम वेतन तथा अन्य सुविधाओं से वंचित रखा जाता है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार बिहार मे कृषि कर्मकारों को न्यूनतम वेतन के भुगतान को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० ए० संगमा) : (क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभापटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Persons registered with the Employment Exchanges in Delhi

4353. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of persons registered with the employment exchanges in Delhi for the post of clerks, typists, stenotypists and engineers/trade-wise as on 1st March, 1993 and 1st March, 1994 ;

(b) the number of persons who have qualified in type-writing and shorthand tests conducted by the Employment Exchanges as on 1st April, 1994 and those sponsored to various offices/organisations for employment during 1993-94; and

(c) how many of them actually got employment during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Discrimination against women workers in country

4354. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent World Bank Re-

port bringing out discrimination against women workers in India in the matter of wage-bill, and health--care and suggesting measures for the improvements in their conditions; and

(b) if so, what were the main observations and suggestions made in the World Bank Report regarding the condition of women labourers in India and improvements therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Bank Report on Gender and Poverty in India (1991) covers within the scope of its study areas such as women's status and role in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors like dairing, forestry and the urban informal sector; women's access to social services like education, health, nutrition and family care ; the institutional context of efforts made by Government and the NGOs to reach women. Some of the major observations made in the report are that despite their statistical 'invisibility' women are vital and productive workers in Indian economy, the poorer the family the more it depends for its survival on the women's earnings; that India invests less in its women workers than their male counter-parts; that women receive a smaller share of the social services in terms of health-care, education and productive assets. It further observes that there is a shift in the trend followed in the past where programmes targeted women as passive beneficiaries and also the gap between male and female agricultural wage rates have narrowed. The suggestions made include viewing women as economic actors and enhancing their capacity for earning, increasing their access to education and technical training on a massive scale as also their access to institutional credit and supportive services for health, child-care and family planning, group formation and advocacy.

Recommendations of ILO report on employment generation

4355. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report about the International Labour Organisation (ILO) published in the Hindustan Times of 4th April, 1994 under the caption 'Reforms need human face';

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations of the ILO Report particularly relating to employment, generation and poverty alleviation ; and

(c) what are the details of the recommendations which Government have so far considered and accepted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Report titled "India : Employment, Poverty and Economic Policies", prepared under a Project sponsored by the UNDP under Technical Support Services, has observed that the stabilisation measures have induced industrial recession and have involved outs in public expenditure on anti-poverty programmes. The report has pointed out that "both the level of underemployment and the incidence of poverty have very probably increased since 1991 although this cannot be empirically confirmed". The Government is aware of any possible adverse consequences of economic reforms in the short-run and has, therefore followed a conssious policy to minimise the social cost of reforme. Following the manoeuvrability gained through overall fiscal correction allocations for social sectors and poverty alevi-ation programmes were significantly stepped up during 1993-94. The 1994-95 Budget carries forward this process of higher allocations for social sectors, rural development and anti-poverty programmes. Government's success in bringing down the rate of inflation since 1991 would have benefited the poor.

Banning the use of child labour in carpet factory

4356. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :